

Rami I. Aqeilan, Ph.D.

Born in East Jerusalem, Prof. Rami Aqeilan is a member of The Lautenberg Center for Immunology and Cancer Research, Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School in Jerusalem.

He began his academic career at the University of Jordan where he received a B.Sc. in biology. During his post-doctoral tenure, Prof. Aqeilan identified several gene products of common fragile sites as tumor suppressor genes and characterized their biochemical interacting ability with several partners that mediate their tumor suppressor functions. Currently he is Milton Winograd Chair in Cancer Research and serves as Chairman for Division of Cell biology, Immunology and Cancer Research.

The ultimate goal of his research is to discover the genes and to elucidate the pathways that represent targets for the development of rational, specific and effective therapeutic approaches to cancer. Most recently, Prof. Aqeilan has been studying the early events contributing to pediatric osteosarcoma initiation and the contribution of the *WWOX* gene and its partners toward this malignant disease and other types of cancer. Another topic that is of Prof. Aqeilan's research interest is the role of fragile genes in cancer development and how defects in DNA damage response checkpoints is associated with fragile genes. His research is being supported by grants from the Israeli Science Foundation (ISF), Israeli Cancer Research Fund (ICRF) and European Commission (EC).